

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13129 311129Z

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SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF MRS MARCOS' MEETING WITH VP

REF: MANILA 13008

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF MRS. MARCOS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON CONTINUED WITH THREE PRINCIPAL MANILA DAILIES AGAIN USING IDENTICAL ARTICLES TO DESCRIBE MEETING WITH VP MONDALE DURING WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER "DROPPED IN." ARTICLES WERE WRITTEN BY NATIONAL MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTER STAFFER IN MRS. MARCOS' PARTY. ACCORDING TO MRS. MARCOS, THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED "GREAT INTEREST AND SATISFACTION" WITH RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PHILIPPINES. AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT "INDICATED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FAVORABLY VIEWED THE STEPS PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS BEEN TAKING TO INSTITUTE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES IN THE PHILIPPINES." MRS. MARCOS DID NOT GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ON THE MEETING, SAYING ONLY THAT THE CONVERSATION "TOUCHED BROADLY ON THE BASES QUESTION AND THE FORTHCOMING ASEAN-US MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE." BOTH PRESIDENT AND VP REPORTEDLY "ASSURED MRS. MARCOS THERE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL RESERVOIR OF GOOD-WILL TOWARDS THE PHILIPPINES AMONG THE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP."

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PAGE 02 MANILA 13129 311129Z

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLES, MRS. MARCOS STATED THAT VP'S RECENT VISIT TO MANILA HAD DONE MUCH "TO SOLIDIFY ANEW" PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN RELATIONS. MARCOS ALSO RECOUNTED HER MEETING WITH A GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN WHO "GRILLED HER" ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES. MONDALE REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT SUCH EXERCISES WERE "PART OF THE SYSTEM" AND THAT "ALL OF US HAVE FACED SIMILAR SITUATIONS

AT SOME TIME." MRS. MARCOS ASKED MONDALE TO BE THE GUEST OF HONOR AT THE INAUGURATION NEXT YEAR OF THE PROPOSED PHILIPPINE CENTER AND EMBASSY BUILDING IN WASHINGTON.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE VISIT SO FAR HAS BEEN LIMITED, WITH JOE GUEVARA (TIMES JOURNAL JULY 30) VENTURING THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS IS ENVOIOUS ABOUT THE FIRST LADY'S MEETING WITH BOTH MONDALE AND CARTER AND IS "PROBABLY WISHING HE WERE GOVERNOR OF METRO MANILA AND MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS." DAILY EXPRESS COLUMNIST VALENCIA GAVE WASHINGTON ASPECT OF VISIT TWO PARAGRAPHS, WRITING JULY 29 THAT MRS. MARCOS "FACED THE AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND ANSWERED ALL THEIR NASTY QUESTIONS. MRS. MARCOS MUST HAVE FOUND OUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION WHERE SHE RECEIVED PRAISE AND ENCOURAGEMENT...WHILE IN WASHINGTON SHE GOT ALL THE CATTY QUESTIONS FROM SUPPOSED GENTLEMEN." JULY 30, VALENCIA ATTRIBUTED MRS. MARCOS' MEETING WITH MONDALE TO THE REALIZATION BY AMERICAN LEADERS THAT IF THEY "ARE NOT IN A COMMUNICATIVE MOOD, THE RUSSIANS ARE." MURPHY

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